



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/752,464

01/03/2001

Hideki Yamanaka

826.1662

1562

21171

7590

01/27/2006

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

SUITE 700

1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

STRANGE, AARON N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/752,464	Applicant(s) YAMANAKA, HIDEKI	
	Examiner Aaron Strange	Art Unit 2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,8-17 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6 and 8-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 10/27/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. With regard to Applicant's assertion that the Office action of 6/27/2005 "does not provide any support in the rejection of claims 13-14" (Page 10, Lines 1-6 of Remarks), the Examiner respectfully disagrees. While it is noted that the text of the rejection was inadvertently omitted from the Office action, the claims were cited as rejected in the Office Action Summary and discussed in the Response to Arguments section. It is apparent from the Response to Arguments section that the rationale behind the rejection of claims was maintained since the Examiner respectfully disagreed with the presented arguments (§5 of 6/27/2005 Office action). Applicant acknowledged the Examiner's statements in the remarks filed 10/27/2005 (Page 14, Lines 11-15 of Remarks). The text of that rejection has been included in the present action for the convenience of Applicant.
3. With regard to claims 2,6,10,11,16 and 17, and Applicant's assertion that Sridhar does not disclose "converting a first protocol in an application protocol level of data transmitted from the client to the server into a second protocol in the application protocol level where a size of a data transfer window in a transport protocol level can be

changed” (Page 12, Line 32 to Page 13, Line 1 of Remarks), the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Since this is a newly added limitation, it will be addressed below.

With regard to Applicant’s assertion that “Sridhar does not teach, and thus cannot improve, a throughput associated with a data-upload from a client to a server” (Page 12, Lines 14-15 of Remarks), the Examiner respectfully disagrees. As an initial matter, it should be noted that nothing in the current claims states that the communication channel is bidirectional or improves throughput associated with a data-upload. However, even if such a limitation were present, the portion of Sridhar cited by Applicant in alleged support of this assertion (Col 5, Lines 4-18) merely states that alternative transport or application layer protocols are used on some portion of the communication path. There is simply nothing in the cited section that states or even remotely suggests that the connection is only a one-way connection from a server to a client. In fact, Sridhar explicitly recites that the communication using XTP is bidirectional (at least Col 12, Lines 40-42).

4. With regard to claim 12, and Applicant’s assertion that Toporek does not disclose a “changed window size”, and that Toporek somehow teaches away from a changing window size (Page 12, Lines 25-34), the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Toporek explicitly discloses that the receive window size of the satellite link may be changed (at least Col 7, Lines 51-53; maintenance of the bandwidth-delay product to window size ratio requires a changing window size; also see Col 16, Line 63 to Col 17, Line 20).

Since Toporek contains explicit disclosure of a changing window size, it cannot reasonably be interpreted as teaching away from using one.

5. With regard to claims 1, 9, and 15, Applicant's arguments (Page 13, Item 21) are not persuasive since they are based on the premise that Toporek teaches "not having to increase windows size", which is not true, as discussed above with regard to claim 12.

6. With regard to claim 4, and Applicant's assertion that Sridhar "merely discusses that such a device (rate control module) is not needed" since "rate control may reduce congestion at points on a communication path that data rates are reduced, thereby reducing packet loss due to overfilling buffers" (Page 13, Lines 30-32 of Remarks), the Examiner respectfully disagrees. The cited section simply does not disclose or even remotely suggest that a rate control device "is not needed". To the contrary, Sridhar clearly discloses that rate control may be used to control congestion, which is beneficial to the system. A rate control device is needed in order to perform rate control, and addition of such a device would provide the rate control and reduce packet loss.

7. With regard to claims 5 and 8, and Applicant's general assertions that "the Examiner's contentions are without support and not as obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art" and "Applicant also submits that there is no motivation to combine the art in a manner as the Examiner contends" (Page 14, Lines 16-20 of Remarks), the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicant has provided no evidence to suggest that there is no

motivation to combine and no reasons why the Examiner's contentions are "without support", and the arguments are unpersuasive.

Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

With regard to Applicant's request that the Examiner "provide a reference to support such contentions", it is noted that Kirkby was provided and teaches charging a service provider for bandwidth consumed by packets directed toward its' servers./

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 1-2,4-6,8-17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

10. With regard to claim 2, the limitation "converting a first protocol in an application protocol level of data transmitted from the client to the server into a second protocol in the application protocol level" is unclear. It is unclear if Applicant is referring to the well-known application layer of the OSI model or some other "application protocol level". The

Examiner recommends that the claims be amended to recite “a first application layer protocol” or a similar recitation to clarify that the protocols are protocols of the well-known application layer. Independent claims 6,10,11,16,17 and 21 recite similar limitations, and are also rejected under the same rationale.

11. With further regard to claim 2, the limitation “in the application protocol level where a size of a data transfer window in a transport protocol level can be changed” is unclear. Based on Applicant’s remarks (Page 10, Lines 18-26), it appears that Applicant is referring to the transport protocol that carries the application layer protocol, such as HTTP over TCP, and stating that the transport protocol has a varying window size. However, the language used remains unclear. The Examiner recommends that the claim be amended to recite “a second application layer protocol, wherein a size of a data transfer window in a transport layer protocol which carries the second application layer protocol can be changed” or a similar recitation which clearly shows the relationship between the transport layer protocol and the application layer protocol. Independent claims 6,10,11,16,17 and 21 recite similar limitations, and are also rejected under the same rationale.

12. With regard to claim 2, the references to first and second receiving and transmitting devices are unclear. Since the language of the claim appears to state that the all of these devices are located at the server side, it appears that Applicant may be referring to the transmitting and receiving modules discussed in pages 40-45 of the

specification, rather than the transmitting and receiving devices discussed in pages 7-10 of the specification. If Applicant is referring to the modules discussed in the specification, the Examiner recommends that the claim be amended to use that term in order to be consistent with the specification. Independent claims 6,10,11,16 and 17 recite similar limitations, and are also rejected under the same rationale.

13. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the received data" in line 16. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is unclear if this "received data" is the data received by the first receiving device in line 3 or the data received by the second receiving device in line 15. Similar issues appear in at least the following locations: Claim 6, Line 20; Claim 10, Line 15; Claim 11, Line 19; Claim 16, Line 16; Claim 17, Line 20.

14. All claims not individually rejected are rejected by virtue of their dependency from the above claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

15. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

16. While the claims are somewhat unclear, as best understood by the Examiner, the presently claimed invention is a system for accelerating the throughput of a client->server or server->client connection by converting a first protocol into a second protocol for use between two gateway devices that provides a larger window size. Independent claims 2, 10, and 16 appear to be directed toward elements located at the client side, and independent claims 6, 11, and 17 appear to be directed toward elements located at the server side. Independent claim 21 appears to be directed toward the method of converting between the protocols. It should be noted that the client side elements and server side elements appear to be components of the same device (described in the specification as an agent relaying device), but are described differently in terms of the order in which they receive, convert, and transmit data.

17. Claims 2, 6, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sridhar et al. (US 6,266,701).

18. With regard to claim 2, Sridhar discloses a communicating system for relaying a communication between a server and a client, comprising:

a first receiving device (XTP receiver module) (Fig 9, 966) receiving data from a network, the data obtained by converting a first protocol (HTTP) in an application protocol level of data transmitted from the client to the server into a second protocol

Art Unit: 2153

(modified HTTP) in the application protocol level where a size of a data transfer window in a transport protocol level can be changed (XTP supports adjustable sliding windows) (at least Col 7, Lines 51-53; maintenance of the bandwidth-delay product to window size ratio requires a changing window size; also see Col 16, Line 63 to Col 17, Line 20) , the second protocol allowing a larger amount of data to be transmitted at a time (Col 5, Lines 4-22), and by multiplexing data of multiple connections so that a connection with a changed window size in the transport protocol level can be used continuously, and transmitted to the network by continuously using the second protocol (Col 12, Lines 25-45);

a demultiplexing device demultiplexing the received data (Col 18, Lines 2-7);

a first converting device converting a protocol of the demultiplexed data into the first protocol (communication on the gateway->server segment is the original protocol, HTTP over TCP)(Col 9, Lines 37-39);

a first transmitting device (TCP transmitter module) (Fig 9, 948) transmitting the data converted by said first converting device to the server (data is forwarded to the server over the TCP portion of the link)(Col 9, Lines 37-39 and Col 11, Lines 23-25);

a second receiving device (TCP receiver module) (Fig 9, 936) receiving data transmitted from the server to the client (Col 11, Lines 33-35);

a second converting device converting the first protocol of the received data into the second protocol (data is converted into modified HTTP over XTP for transmission between the gateways) (Col 9, Lines 30-36);

a multiplexing device multiplexing data of multiple connections converted by said second converting device so that a connection with a changed window size in the transport protocol level can be used continuously (Col 12, Lines 25-45 and Col 18, Lines 2-7); and

a second transmitting device (XTP transmitter module)(Fig 9, 976) transmitting data multiplexed by said multiplexing device to the network (Col 11, Lines 33-35).

19. With regard to claim 6, Sridhar discloses a communicating system for relaying a communication between a server and a client, comprising:

a first receiving device (TCP receiver module) receiving data transmitted from the client to the server (Col 11, Lines 23-25);

a first converting device converting a first protocol (HTTP) in an application protocol level of the received data into a second protocol (modified HTTP) in the application protocol level where a size of a data transfer window in a transport protocol level can be changed (XTP supports adjustable sliding windows) (at least Col 7, Lines 51-53; maintenance of the bandwidth-delay product to window size ratio requires a changing window size; also see Col 16, Line 63 to Col 17, Line 20), the second protocol allowing a larger amount of data to be transferred at a time (Col 5, Lines 4-22);

a multiplexing device multiplexing data of multiple connections converted by said first converting device so that a connection with a changed window size in the transport protocol level can be used continuously (Col 12, Lines 25-45); and

a first transmitting device (XTP transmitter module) transmitting data multiplexed by said multiplexing device to the network (Col 11, Lines 23-25);

a second receiving device (XTP receiver module) receiving data from the network, the data obtained by converting the first protocol (HTTP) of data transmitted from the server to the client into the second protocol (modified HTTP) and by multiplexing data of multiple connections (XTP link uses multiplexing) (Col 12, Lines 25-45) so that a connection with a changed window size in the transport protocol level can be used continuously, and transmitted to the network by continuously using the second protocol (data is converted into modified HTTP over XTP for transmission between the gateways) (Col 9, Lines 30-36);

a demultiplexing device demultiplexing the received data (Col 18, Lines 2-7);

a second converting device converting a protocol of the demultiplexed data into the first protocol (the first protocol is used for transmission between the client and the gateway) (Col 9, Lines 27-30);

and a second transmitting device (TCP transmitting device) transmitting the data converted by said converting device to the client (gateway forwards responses to client)(Col 11, Lines 45-49).

20. Claims 10 and 16 recite substantially identical subject matter to claim 2 and are rejected under the same rationale. Any differences between the claims do not result in patentably distinct claims and all of the limitations are taught by the above cited art.

Art Unit: 2153

21. Claims 11, and 17 recite substantially identical subject matter to claim 6 are rejected under the same rationale. Any differences between the claims do not result in patentably distinct claims and all of the limitations are taught by the above cited art.

22. With regard to claim 21, Sridhar discloses a method of relaying communication between a server and a client, comprising:

converting a first protocol (HTTP) in an application protocol level of data transmitted from the client to the server into a second protocol (modified HTTP) in the application protocol level where a size of a data transfer window in a transport protocol level can be changed (XTP supports adjustable sliding windows) (at least Col 7, Lines 51-53; maintenance of the bandwidth-delay product to window size ratio requires a changing window size; also see Col 16, Line 63 to Col 17, Line 20) , the second protocol allowing a larger amount of data to be transmitted at a time (Col 5, Lines 4-22); and

multiplexing data of multiple connections so that a connection with a changed window size in the transport protocol level can be used continuously (Col 12, Lines 25-45);

23. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Toporek et al. (US 6,460,085).

Art Unit: 2153

24. With regard to claim 12, Toporek discloses a communicating method, comprising: forming a virtual tunnel (TCP over satellite) having a multiplexing protocol (XTP, modified TCP or XTP-like protocol), where a size of a data transfer window in a transport protocol sent within a multiplexing protocol can be changed (window sizes can be adjusted) (Col 7, Lines 27-28) and a connection with a converted window size in the transport protocol can be used continuously (Col 11, Lines 10-14), for hiding a network delay (connection appears to occur immediately) that takes place between a server and a client (client and server have no knowledge of satellite link) (Col 13, Lines 7-21); and continuously using (Col 11, Lines 10-14) the virtual tunnel as a communication bypass between the server and the client so as to increase a throughput between the server and the client (larger windows allow higher throughput) (Col 7, Lines 27-36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

25. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

26. Claims 1,4,9, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar et al. (US 6,266,701) in view of Toporek et al. (US 6,460,085).

27. With regard to claims 1,9, and 15, while the system disclosed by Sridhar shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed above), it fails to disclose a buffer buffering data transmitted from the server to the client and accelerating data output from the server so as to increase throughput assigned to a connection to the client by the server.

Toporek discloses a similar system in which data transfer is accelerated across an XTP connection. Toporek teaches buffering data transmitted from the server to the client and accelerating data output from the server (Col 7, Lines 27-36) so as to increase a throughput assigned to the connection to the client by the server (Server can get a linear increase in throughput for an increase in window size) (Col 17, Lines 33-52). This would have been an advantageous addition to the system disclosed by Sridhar since it would have increased the throughput of the connection, resulting in faster downloads for the client.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to buffer data to increase a throughput assigned to the connection, resulting in faster downloads for the client.

28. With regard to claim 4, while the system disclosed by Sridhar shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed above), it fails to disclose an idling device performing an idling operation corresponding to a resource assigned to the client, wherein said transmitting device transmits data after the idling operation is completed.

Toporek discloses a similar system in which data transfer is accelerated across

Art Unit: 2153

an XTP connection. Toporek teaches the use of a rate control module which determines whether to send data across the satellite link immediately, or to buffer it and deliver it at a later time (Col 10, lines 60-63). This would have been an advantageous addition to the system disclosed by Sridhar since it would have allowed the gateway to control the rate of transmission of data across the link, controlling congestion.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an idling device to perform an idling operation and transmit the data after the idling operation has completed, as a means to control congestion on the link.

29. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar et al. (US 6,266,701) in view of Kirkby et al. (US 6,671,285).

30. With regard to claim 5, while the system disclosed by Sridhar shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed above), it fails to disclose a charging device performing a charging process for a service provider of the server, wherein said charging device receives a request from the client, determines whether or not the request is to be issued to the server, and when the request is to be issued to the server, transferring the request and charging the service provider.

Kirkby teaches a method of charging network users for use of certain network resources. Kirkby discloses that customers (service providers or end users) (Col 5, Lines 7-12) who need wide bandwidth are willing to pay extra for this service (Col 2,

Art Unit: 2153

Lines 35-40). Since the satellite link disclosed by Sridhar provides significantly higher bandwidth than a terrestrial link, these users would be willing to pay extra to have their data sent over the satellite link. Kirkby further discloses determining whether a request from a client is to be issued to the server since the service provider is charged only for data which is directed toward its' servers (Col 4, Lines 62-65 and Col 5, Lines 8-12) and users have the option of terminating a call if the tariff is judged to be too high (Col 5, Lines 20-30). This requires determining if the request is to be directed as well as the client and server involved in the connection.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a charging device to charge a service provider for bandwidth consumed by packets directed toward its' server(s).

31. With regard to claim 8, which is similar to claim 5, Sridhar fails to specifically disclose a charging device for charging users for use of the network.

Kirkby also discloses that the charging device discussed with regard to claim 5 may also be used to charge users for bandwidth they consume (Col 4, Lines 51-67).

32. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toporek et al. (US 6,460,085) in view of Kirkby et al. (US 6,671,285).

33. With regard to claims 13 and 14, while the system disclosed by Toporek shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed above), it fails to disclose

Art Unit: 2153

charging a user of the client or a service provider of the server for a communication using the virtual tunnel.

Kirkby et al. (Kirkby, hereafter) teach a method of charging network users for user of certain network resources. Kirkby discloses that customers (Service providers or end users) (Col 5, Lines 7-12) who need wide bandwidth are willing to pay extra for this service (Kirkby, Col 2, Lines 35-40). The virtual tunnel disclosed by Toporek uses a satellite link that provides significantly higher bandwidth than a conventional communications link. Using the tunnel over the satellite link would significantly speed up transfers of large quantities of data. Charging users of the tunnel, in exchange for the increased bandwidth, as disclosed by Kirkby would be advantageous for the users and the owner of the link. Service would be improved for the users of the link, and the owner would profit from the usage. This would work equally well for clients as well as servers using the link, as clients could pay for additional bandwidth to speed up their downloads and servers could improve their upload speeds.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to charge the user of the client and/or the service provider of a server for use of the virtual tunnel over the satellite link. Since the tunnel provides significantly increased bandwidth, the users would be willing to pay the owner for increased performance of file transfers.

Conclusion

34. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

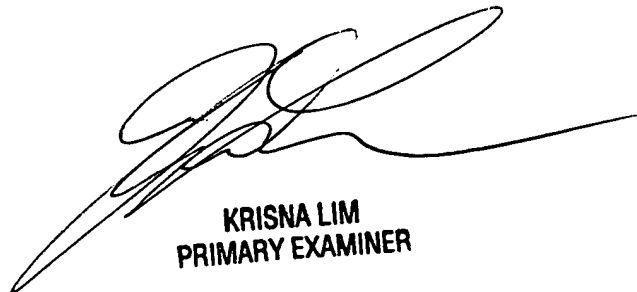
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron Strange whose telephone number is 571-272-3959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AS
1/12/2006



**KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**